

By the Numbers

1 Domestic violence is the No. 1 leading cause of injury to women — more than car accidents, muggings and rapes combined.

Every nine seconds a woman in the U.S. is assaulted or beaten.

9

1 in 3

Women worldwide have been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during their lifetimes — most often by a member of their own family.

92 percent of women listed reducing domestic violence and sexual assault as their top concern on a DV survey.

92

2x

Men who, as children, witnessed their parents' domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own wives than sons of non-violent parents.

55 to 95

Percentage of abused women surveyed in 10 countries who never reported their abuse to authorities or domestic violence shelters for help.

— Statistics from domesticviolencestatistics.org

>> domestic violence victims and the officers working their cases.

"My role as an advocate is to provide direct services to victims of crime," Fulcher said. "What's great about being law enforcement based is that they can start at the moment a crime is reported to law enforcement versus having to potentially wait until the case is in a prosecutorial stage or to have the victim seek out that advocacy from other agencies. To have it in-house can be really helpful, not only to the victim and the non-offending family, but also to the officer in developing a rapport with that victim.

"I can answer those questions they have about not only the law enforcement process, but also the prosecutorial process," Fulcher continued. "Does my child have to testify? Do I need a medical exam?" All those questions — an advocate can be there at the onset to provide that support, to answer those questions and guide them through the process."

Fulcher noted that when she speaks to law enforcement about her work, many commanding officers tell her they would love to have an advocate in-house like her, but they can't afford one.

"Partner with another agency who can [afford it], who already has the advocates on staff," she said. "And work out a way to bring those services in house to you."

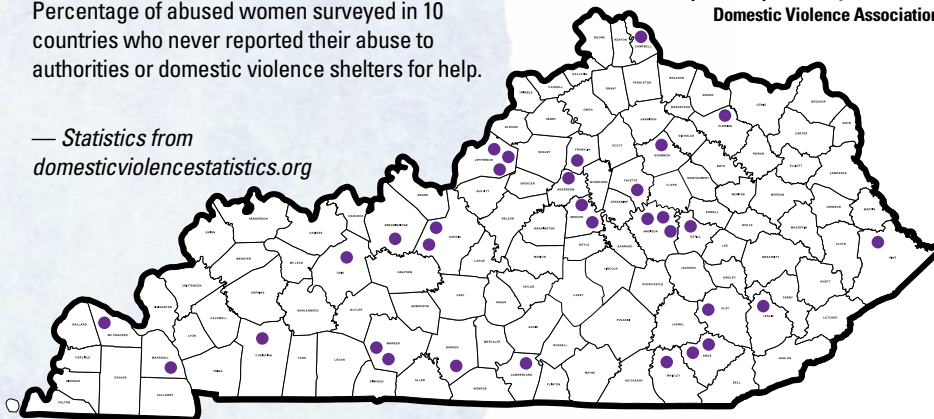
With a good working relationship already in place between BGPD and the local shelter, BRASS Executive Director Lee Alcott felt the need for an opportunity to

bridge the gap between the two groups. Coordinating the partnership took more than a year with many meetings about details like desks and equipment and finding the right advocates for the job, but the mutual respect between the agencies made the work successful.

"There is a real foundation of respect," Alcott said. "We know we're different. We know we have different philosophies. But there is respect there. We feel that there is more care taken with the clients we work with because of it. And they're (the clients) not always easy. I mean, believe me, there is no perfect victim, and it's not always easy. But this collaboration, I think, has really helped the whole community."

One of the most notable ways the collaboration has helped the police department is through relieving road officers of following up with domestic violence victims through JC3 reports. A victim who may be leery of law enforcement might be more willing to talk to an advocate about services available to them, Fulcher said, a benefit for officers, victims and advocates.

▼ The purple markers on Kentucky's map represent the more than 30 women who were killed by domestic abusers between Sept. 2010 and Sept. 2011. The list was compiled and provided by the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association.



Downtown Lexington recently was stormed by men, women and children bearing signs, t-shirts and megaphones demanding that Lexington "Take Back the Night." The international movement began more than 30 years ago as a visible way for citizens to take a stand against sexual and domestic violence in their communities. Grassroots efforts such as these are a continuing effort in Kentucky to make domestic violence a community issue and bring awareness to the problem.